

administered with proper precautions. It was reported to have been used in 25,000 cases in the Crimean war and in 9,000 cases in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, without a single accident. Standard medical works sanctioned these reports. And no one will ever know how many deaths resulted from the recklessness engendered in the medical profession by this false attitude of the enthusiastic believers in chloroform.

So with antitoxin. Whatever may be the final verdict of the profession as to its merits as a remedy in diphtheria, the fact should not be lost sight of that it is a most powerful agent, that the contraindications to its use are not yet well ascertained, and that it can be an active instrument of great evil as well as possible good. It is not often that the evidence of the ill effects of an alleged remedy is as clear as it is in this case. Given as a prophylactic to a healthy child, disease can not be credited with any share of the result. No one can doubt that antitoxin kills, and that, too, right speedily. JAMES L. TAYLOR, M.D.

The A. M. A. Badge.

WILMORE, PA., March 25, 1896.

To the Editor:—In a late number of the JOURNAL my attention was called to an article written by Dr. Stewart, of Detroit, Mich., as regards a permanent badge for the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. The article comes in a good time and I have often wondered that as yet nothing has been done through the JOURNAL, or at the yearly meetings of the Society, in the matter of choosing a badge for the Society, and am glad to see that Dr. Stewart has at last placed the matter so clearly before us as a Society. We surely know that the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION has been founded nearly a half century and can venture on a badge when every order or society, great or small, from the Masons down, are well known and readily distinguished by a badge. And it appears to me there would be no better time to decide on this matter than at the meeting at Atlanta, placing the matter in the hands of a committee with instructions that the badge shall be ready to issue at the fiftieth meeting of the ASSOCIATION, which will occur in 1897; and by the way, has there been any movement as yet to decide whether or not the Society shall hold its fiftieth meeting at Philadelphia, the place of its birth? It would be appropriate to do so in many ways, and would be the means of bringing a large number of members to the city and no doubt at the same time adding a large number of new members. Let us hear from other members on this matter of badges.

IRVING C. BLAISDELL, M.D.

Medical and Surgical History of the War.

To the Editor:—Has there been a law passed for printing a new revision on the Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion which are to be distributed among the profession through the Congressmen in their districts? The Indiana State Board of Health moved for this bill for a new edition at their last meeting.

H. G. GRAHAM.

ANSWER: The work has not been republished.

BOOK NOTICES.

Treatise on the Diseases of Infancy and Childhood. By J. LEWIS SMITH, M.D., Clinical Professor of Diseases of Children in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York. New (8th) edition, thoroughly revised and rewritten and much enlarged. Handsome octavo of 983 pages, with 273 illustrations and 4 full-page plates. Cloth, \$4.50; leather, \$5.50. Lea Brothers & Co., New York and Philadelphia. 1896.

For more than a quarter of a century Smith's diseases of children has been a standard book of reference, and a textbook. In advanced age, and with ripened judgment, the distinguished author has revised the book, and this eighth edition

the reader will find quite up to date. Dr. Smith has always been a safe counselor and a conservative one. This characteristic is as apparent now as in the early editions. In regard to the Roux antitoxin treatment of diphtheria, after mentioning the established remedies, he says: "The remedies which we have mentioned are in my opinion the most efficacious and safest of those which pharmacy has heretofore furnished, but a new remedy, known as 'antitoxin,' has been so highly extolled by many eminent physicians as a remedy for diphtheria, that this new remedy demands attention if not employment, wherever this fatal malady occurs." The author then quotes at length from Roux's paper at the Buda-Pesth Congress, and gives his statistics. He quotes, p. 378, the favoring statistics of Saw, Turner, Widehofer and Caille, and *per contra* says: "We can not write so favorably of the use of antitoxin serum in the New York Foundling Asylum. Since a reliable preparation was obtained from the Health Board, 31 cases were inoculated with the serum. The number of units employed varied from 500 to 2,200. The antitoxin was inserted under the skin on the first day in 12 cases, on the second or third day in 17 cases, and on the fourth or fifth day in 2 cases. Nineteen received the antitoxin once, 9 received it twice and 3 three times. Microscopic examinations revealed the Klebs-Löffler bacillus in all the cases, and the streptococcus in nearly all the cases, so that in all or nearly all the infection was a mixed one. The physicians who observed these cases and witnessed the necropsies and microscopic investigations could not resist the conviction that the broncho-pneumonia of which so many died was due to the streptococcus which was abundant in the lobules, and upon which microbe the antitoxin has little or no effect. Results: Recovered 14, died 17 (14 from broncho-pneumonia and croup). In four or five of the cases the benefit was very marked after the use of the antitoxin. It is seen that statistics thus far are favorable for the antitoxin treatment, but it must be recollected that the type of the microbe disease frequently changes, so that the experience of several years is often necessary to determine the full value of a remedy."

In regard to the treatment of typhoid fever the author holds that it can not be abridged or its course materially changed, and naturally the antiseptic treatment receives little notice. It is curious to see the term "scrofula" still retained in a chapter entirely separated from tuberculosis, but we suppose some vestiges of the past must be retained.

The surgical diseases of children are treated of by Prof. Stephen Smith with the well-known ability of that author, and brought up to date.

A Text-Book upon the Pathogenic Bacteria, for Students of Medicine and Physicians. By JOSEPH MCFARLAND, M.D., Demonstrator of Pathological Histology, Lecturer on Bacteriology in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, etc. With 113 illustrations. Cloth, 8vo, pp. 359. Price \$2.50. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders & Co. Chicago: W. T. Keener, Agent. 1896.

This book, which is well illustrated and carefully printed, is an excellent one; indeed, we can not too strongly commend it. The description of the methods of study of the pathogenic bacteria are set forth with such clearness that even the beginner may feel less reluctance to commence the study of a branch of medical science which has hitherto been considered as a bugbear on account of the difficult technique. There is a vast amount of information, and yet the work is not bulky and there is no mere padding. We might criticise some of the inaccuracies in the historical introductory, but they are not material, as the work is in itself so useful and generally worthy of commendation. In the first place Redi's books, "Generacionem Insectorum," "De Ave Diomedea," "Experimenta circa varias Res Naturales," were published in one 18mo volume, Amsterdam, in 1686. The "experimenta naturalia" were made in 1662. In the frontispiece to the "De Insectis," a female